

Northwest Highlands

Including Sutherland, Ben Wyvis, Wester Ross, The Cuillin, Glen Affric, Glen Shiel and Knoydart
Forecast valid from 06:00 on Wednesday 22 Dec 2021 until 23:59 on Thursday 23 Dec 2021

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 22 Dec 2021 at 04:23 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: Low for timing of arrival of precipitation on Wednesday, and for northward extent of any milder air on Wednesday night into Thursday. High for unsettled weather on Thursday, and for a return to somewhat drier and colder weather from Friday onwards.

Headline for Wednesday 22 Dec 2021: Dry morning, rain (locally freezing) and snow spreading northeast from late afternoon

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 22 Dec 2021

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Gales
No Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy Snow
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
					
Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Sleet	Heavy snow	Light snow
Precipitation probability					
<05%	<05%	20%	60%	70%	70%

Forecast for Wednesday 22 Dec 2021

Weather: Dry in the morning with some hazy sunshine. Thickening cloud will bring some rain (locally freezing), snow above 800-900m, from the south through the afternoon and evening, although north of Assynt likely to stay dry until late evening. Snow may turn to rain very late in the day on all but the highest tops, but a lot of uncertainty into the speed of the northward progress of any warmer air.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 80% morning and early afternoon. 20% from mid-afternoon

Visibility: Mainly very good for daylight hours with only small amounts of low cloud in the glens and lower slopes, but becoming poor in snow and extensive low cloud down to 600 metres later in the day.

Forecast for Wednesday 22 Dec 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)				Wind Direction (blowing from)		
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	7/9 E	13/16 E	14/17 SE	15/19 SE	13/16 SE	12/16 E	12/15 E
900	7/9 E	13/16 E	14/17 SE	14/17 SE	13/16 SE	12/16 E	12/15 E
600	6/7 E	10/12 SE	12/14 SE	10/13 SE	9/12 E	11/14 SE	9/12 E
300	2/6 E	4/10 E	3/10 E	3/10 E	7/12 E	7/12 E	7/13 E
Glen	7/8 E	10/13 E	9/12 E	8/10 E	10/14 E	10/14 E	9/13 E

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	-1/-5	-1/-7	-0/-6	1/-5	0/-5	-0/-5	-0/-5
900	-1/-5	-1/-6	0/-5	1/-4	0/-4	0/-5	0/-4
600	1/-2	1/-3	2/-2	3/-1	2/-1	2/-2	2/-2
300	0/-2	-0/-3	0/-2	1/-1	1/-2	1/-2	1/-2
Glen	3/-0	3/-1	4/1	5/2	5/1	4/1	5/2
Freezing Level*	400m	300m	400m	1200m	1200m	1200m	1400m

*Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View

Potential for some icy surfaces to develop later in the day, especially at lower elevations. Freezing level may end up higher than shown later in the day, but very low confidence in this aspect.

Forecast for Thursday 23 Dec 2021

Weather: An overcast day with some patchy rain and perhaps higher summit snow in the morning, this turning more persistent and widespread through the afternoon and evening away from the far north. As colder air returns later in the day rain will turn to snow at lower levels away from the southwest of the area.

Maximum wind: Southeasterly 20 mph

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Little chance away from the west coast where low cloud may be patchy in nature

Visibility: Poor in widespread low cloud down to 500 metres, although the west coast may be clearer

Temperature: Glens: Plus 5 Celsius

At 800m: Plus 3 Celsius

Freezing level: Around 1500 metres in the south, 1000 metres in the north